GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5940
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2001
TOBACCO FARMERS
BHUPENDRASINH PRABHATSINH SOLANKI;MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many tobacco growing farmers have been rendered jobless owing to the tobacco policy;

(b) if so, whether the Government are formulating any scheme for the said farmers to grow any alternative crop; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y.NAIK)

(a): The area of tobacco remains almost stable for many years which is evident from the following table:

Year	Area coverage (million ha.)
1970-71	0.45
1980-81	0.45
1990-91	0.41
1996-97	0.43
1997-98	0.46
1998-99	0.46

Thus it is evident that the tobacco farmers are engaged in tobacco cultivation.

(b)&(c): The alternate crops suggested by research system of ICAR replacing tobacco crop inirrigated as well as unirrigated areas are as follows:

(i) Irrigated Areas: Oilpalm, sugarcane, groundnut, cotton, chillies, maize, onion, cucumber, vegetables, blackgram, greengram, mustard, ragi, caster-groundnut, cotton-groundnut, pigeonpea-groundnut, paddy-mustard, potato, ginger-wheat, tomato, bhindi, cabbage, cauliflower, garlic, tomato, brinjal and pulses, redgram, turmeric.

(ii) Unirrigated Areas: Sorghum, mustard, greengram, coriander, cotton, bengalgram, blackgram, greengram, soyabean, redgram, sunflower, safflower, groundnut, maize, bajra, caster, etc.

Due to agro-ecological suitability as well as cost economic return to the farmers, shift from tobacco cultivation is not being adopted by the farmers.